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**BY EMAIL**

[Minister.Bowie@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:Minister.Bowie@energysecurity.gov.uk)

*Dear Minister,*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for visiting Suffolk on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Not only to talk to EDF about Sizewell C, or to meet with local politicians such as myself, but most importantly, to meet with town and parish leaders, as well as leaders of amenity groups to hear their concerns about the cumulative impact on our county from the raft of energy projects in Suffolk.

I would also like to thank you for the chance to highlight the long-term opportunities from both Sizewell C and the wider energy sector.

**Communities**

Town and Parish councils, unlike national and local politicians who have a platform, or well-resourced amenity groups who create a platform for themselves, can struggle to be heard. However, it is these communities that bear the brunt of the projects that are necessary to reduce the impacts of a changing climate and adapt to it.

Therefore, whilst as we discussed, community benefits are necessary, they are not sufficient to support and build the required social licence for the scale of transformation that is needed, to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Fair and equitable outcomes, or what might be described as a just transition, which includes community benefits, will only be accepted, and supported, if the process for delivering new infrastructure is genuinely participatory. Creating the opportunity for a productive dialogue between project promoters and communities and offering, at the project level, the possibility of change.

Participatory approaches to placemaking are well established practice in urban redevelopment in the UK, and in rural development. Project promoters should, given the magnitude, extent and speed of change that is urgently required, apply these practices appropriately in the development of net zero and climate adaptive infrastructure projects.

## **Opportunities from Sizewell C and the Energy sector**

In Suffolk, the development, construction, and operation of net zero generation and transmission projects has been, and will continue to be, a driver of significant inward investment and local opportunity. Sizewell B employs over 500 permanent staff and over 250 embedded contracting partners, the station is estimated to deliver £40 million into the local economy annually, and an additional £20 million during every outage cycle. Furthermore, it is predicted that around £2 billion will be spent in Suffolk during the construction of Sizewell C and that over its operational lifetime Sizewell C will contribute £12.7 billion to the local economy.

However, nuclear, along with the renewables and electricity transmission sectors, faces a substantial skills gap which needs to be addressed now. There are thousands of long term skilled, productive, and well-paid opportunities, that need to be translated into UK jobs, for those transferring into the sector from declining carbon intensive industries, or re-joining the workforce, or who are now in education. Those in education include some very young people, who need to recognise nuclear, and the wider energy sector, as an opportunity for them.

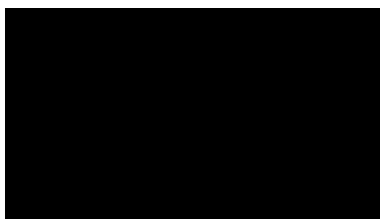
Therefore, Suffolk has an opportunity, through leveraging current expertise associated with Sizewell B, and the catalytic effect of constructing Sizewell C, to establish knowhow and global competitiveness to create enduring employment and export revenues that are relevant to the long-term operations and maintenance of the nuclear industry; creating the prospect for the county to become a prominent area of innovation in nuclear power generation.

In summary, nuclear, and renewable energy in Suffolk will:

- In the short term deliver levelling up and inward investment, enhanced by Suffolk's Devolution Deal.
- In the medium term deliver net zero targets, building resilience and capacity.
- In the long term deliver a sustainable, exportable, and ongoing low carbon energy sector.

I look forward to working with you, and your officials, on these issues in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Rout

Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council  
Cabinet Member for Finance and  
Environment